

Name: Chow Khoi Rong, Clara (09)

Class: 305

### **Music, the language of all**

Have you ever been stuck in a confined area with nobody of the same language as you? Well, if you wondered what you could possibly do with them, here is a suggestion. Herbie Hancock once said, "Music happens to be an art form that transcends language." If you are afraid it might happen to you one day, picking up music might be a good option. Music is an amazing art that connects all ages, all nationalities, all languages, and even, all the different times and centuries. It is able to touch the heart of all people, convey the same message and belief. I strongly believe, it is a universal language, a language that everybody is able to understand and agree, and connect with without conflict.

I started tying my life with music at a tender age of three, when I could barely even memorise the two times table. I used to detest the fact that I had to sacrifice so much time on my music sitting by the piano. When others were able to play and go out with their friends, I was there trying to perfect the piece down to every single note. I used to admire the dancers, with all their flamboyant, graceful and magnificent dance moves that awed the audiences. They were unlike us musicians that spend all day trying to perfect how the finger touches the key.

But as I matured, and started opening my eyes to the rest of the world, I realized how awfully wrong I had been. On an overseas vacation with my family, we spent three days and two nights in a place named "Ha Long Bay" in Vietnam. We cruised along the bay on a small boat and it was probably my first close encounter with so many different people from the different corners of the globe – France, Italy, England, American, Australians and last but not least Singaporeans. You could probably imagine the awkward silence that filled the air after the most basic questions like "Where are you from?", "How do you find the food?" were asked during dinner.

My family and I sat together with a middle aged French woman and we could hardly start a conversation as we hardly even had anything in common. So I took the opportunity and started asking the only thing I had in common with France, music. The conversation took a positive turn, and we started talking about our favorite musical compositions, composers and genres. I had also learnt things like the popular music of young people in France which I probably would never know if I did not start the conversation with music.

It was times like this when I understood the power and magnificence of music and how it was able to change the way people communicate with each other, bringing different people from all over the world as one. I quote from Benjamin Disraeli, "Were it not for music, we might in these days say, the Beautiful is dead." I appreciated and enjoyed all the time that I have spent with this wonderful art and I am sure I will continue doing so. I feel that music is language is a powerful thing that brings people together. Music is language of all, and this, I believe.